

REPORT OF YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Court Diversion continues to play an important role in the lives of young people who have been charged with committing a first offense. The staff of the Youth Services Bureau Court Diversion Program work to hold each youth accountable for his/her offense, instill a sense of community ownership and citizenship through acts of service, provide accountability and support for academics, and use the youth's strengths and interests as tools to redirect and motivate him/her. The program aims to educate juveniles about the consequences of poor choices, not only on others, but also on themselves and their family. After consulting with an independent evaluator, we met with the clerk of the local district court who will be assisting us in obtaining statewide court data on the juveniles who have successfully completed the program in the past years.

Over the past six years, the Alton Police Department has referred thirty-five youth to the Youth Service Bureau Court Diversion Program. In addition to the Court Diversion Program, there are a number of Youth Services Bureau programs that the citizens of Alton utilize and benefit from. These programs include the Upswing Program (CHINS Diversion), Teen Court, the Challenge Course, the Family Mediation Program, the new Prime of Life Program, Take Control, and Youth Educational Shoplifting Program (YES). During this year, we also developed a Victim/Offender Mediation Program and are implementing Anger Control Training for high school students.

Diane Alting continues to represent the Court Diversion Program as a member of our Board of Directors. In addition to citizen representation on the board, there are a couple of Alton residents who volunteer their time to the Youth Services Bureau. We have a positive working relationship with the police, schools, and the citizens of Alton.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trisha Burton
Interim Director